



## YOUNG EXECUTIVE AWARD 2022 PROGRAMME DETAILS

### Background and Objectives

Introduced in 2009, the ACI Asia-Pacific Young Executive Award (YEA) is an annual research paper competition which encourages young talents in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East to contribute innovative solutions for current aviation industry issues.

### Topic of Young Executive Award 2022

“Adapting Airports to a Changing Climate in the Region”

The threat of climate change is real. In fact, climate change is also threatening the aviation industry, particularly airports. From the Pacific Islands stretching across Asia and into the Middle East, airports of all sizes are having to adapt to and manage the effects of climate change. Given the airports' unique geographic locations, the effects range from extreme temperatures, and rising sea levels. Add on increased frequency and intensity of weather systems, airports' business operations are often disrupted and adversely impacted.

Adaptation measures to counter airports' vulnerability to such disruptive climate conditions have become necessary to ensure business continuity, sustainability, and evolving operational needs.

For this next Young Executive award competition, participating candidates shall in their submissions:

- Identify key climate change impacting airport(s) in the region;
- Analyze operational and business risks faced by the airport(s);
- Identify adaptation measures already implemented at the airport(s), if any;
- Recommend and propose new innovative climate change adaptation solutions, measures or strategies for building or enhancing airport(s)' climate resilience;
- Recommend how airport(s) at national or regional levels might collaborate in combating regional climate risks.

### Eligibility

Each ACI Asia-Pacific airport member in good standing is entitled to nominate one candidate for this competition. Each entry must be accompanied by the completed Application Form, also signed by the CEO/ ACI Official Representative of the airport supporting the candidate's nomination. All candidates shall be at or under the age of 35 at the deadline of submission. They should be currently serving in a middle management position at any ACI Asia-Pacific airport member and have a minimum of two years of working experience in the aviation field.

### Submission Guidelines

All papers must be written in English and shall contain no more than 5,000 words of A4-sized paper, using Arial font, size 11 and 1.5 line spacing. All papers must include an Executive Summary and references. Graphical illustrations such as tables, graphs and images are permitted. Papers must be submitted digitally in Microsoft Word and PDF format.

The compulsory Executive Summary shall be an overview of the research paper and include pertinent analysis of identified risks, drawn conclusions, and recommended course of actions in a complete manner. The Executive Summary should ideally be no more than 2 pages.

Tables, diagrams (including associated legends), appendices, references, footnotes and endnotes, the bibliography and any bound published material are excluded from the word count.

## Submission Deadline

Each candidate must send his/her paper together with the completed Young Executive Award 2022 Application Form and supporting documents to [young\\_executive@aci-asiapac.aero](mailto:young_executive@aci-asiapac.aero) on or before **Friday 3 December 2021 12:00 noon Hong Kong Time (GMT+8)**.

## Costs

There are no entry fees to enter the programme.

## Assessment Criteria

Candidate submission shall be assessed based on insightful and structural analysis with detailed observations and thorough research on the topic. The candidate shall also demonstrate creativity and innovation to possible solutions, apply the concept at airports in general and show vision towards the future aviation industry. The paper submission will also be assessed based on overall paper structure and clarity in language articulation.

## The Winner

The Winner of the Young Executive Award will be decided by a panel of judges comprised of relevant industry representatives. The winner will be awarded a cash reward of US\$1000 and a scholarship to Airport Operations Diploma programme (online self-study). The airport of the winning candidate will receive an additional scholarship for an ACI Global Training Leadership and Management Professional Certificate Course, virtual or classroom, of their choice (excluding travel fees).

The winning Young Executive will be announced at the ACI Asia-Pacific Regional Assembly, tentatively scheduled for May 2022. The winner will also be featured in ACI Asia-Pacific's publications and social channels.

ACI Asia-Pacific reserves the right to award Honorable Mentions.

## Contact Us

For further information, please visit our website at [www.aci-asiapac.aero](http://www.aci-asiapac.aero) or email [young\\_executive@aci-asiapac.aero](mailto:young_executive@aci-asiapac.aero).

## Panel of Judges

### Panel Chair

**Mr. Jean-Michel RATRON**  
**Director General**  
**Aéroport de Tahiti**



Since he joined Egis group in 2013, Jean-Michel Ratron has successively been Chief Executive Officer of Aéroport de Libreville, Gabon (1 million passengers), and Aéroports du Congo, Republic of Congo (1,5 million passengers). He currently is CEO of Aéroport de Tahiti, French Polynesia (4 airports including Tahiti Faa'a, 2 million passengers).

Prior to Egis, Mr. Ratron had been involved in Marketing research, then in the Public Transportation field, where he ended as Chief Executive Officer of Transdev Airport Services, one of the major ground transport companies at Roissy-CDG and Orly Airports in Paris.

He had been WBP of ACI Europe between 2008 and 2013, and had become full member of ACI Africa in 2014 when joining Aéroport de Libreville as CEO. He had been member of ACI Africa Board of Directors between 2016 and 2019, before his move to Tahiti Airport in 2019. He also is member of French-speaking Airports association (UAF&FA), and is graduate of AMPAP program.

Mr. Ratron is also a director of the ACI Asia-Pacific Regional Board.

**Mr. Mohamed Yousif ALBINFALAH**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Bahrain Airport Company**



Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah serves as Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) with the responsibility of the management, operation and future strategy and development of Bahrain International Airport.

In addition, Mr. Al Binfalah is leading the Company's team who is responsible for the delivery of the \$1bn Bahrain International Airport Modernization Programme with the aim of elevating the airport's infrastructure and services in line with the highest levels of safety, security, technology, passenger experience and environmental standards.

Mr. Al Binfalah joined BAC in 2012 and was previously the General Manager of DHL Aviation Service W.L.L. for 8 years. Prior to this Mohamed held various senior management positions and worked at Gulf Petrochemicals Industries Co. B.S.C. (GPIC) and was one of the founders and Chief Executive Officer of a facility management practice headquartered in Bahrain with offices in Kuwait, Dubai and Saudi Arabia.

Currently, Mr. Al Binfalah is working with a group of co-founders to incorporate the Bahrain Green Building Council.

Mr. Al Binfalah is also a director of the ACI Asia-Pacific Regional Board.

He holds a BSc. in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA in Business Administration. Mohamed is married and has three children.

**Dr. Manjit SINGH**  
**Deputy Regional Director**  
**ICAO Asia and Pacific (APAC) Office**



Dr. Singh has been the Deputy Regional Director of the ICAO Asia Pacific Office in Bangkok, Thailand since April 2017. He had also previously served with ICAO Asia Pacific Office as the Regional Officer Technical Cooperation from May 2011 to December 2014.

He began his career in aviation with the Department of Civil Aviation (DCA) Malaysia as an Air Traffic Control Officer in June 1984. Over the years, Dr. Singh held different positions of increasing responsibilities within DCA Malaysia including as Director Air Traffic Services Inspectorate Division and eventually as Director of the Malaysia Aviation Academy (MAvA).

He holds a M.Sc. (Air Transport Management) as well as a PhD from Cranfield University, UK.

**Ms. Debra Tan**  
**Director & Head, CWR**  
**China Water Risk**



Ms. Tan heads CWR, a non-profit that aims to “mainstream” water and climate risks into financial decision-making and corporate strategies. She built CWR from an idea into a 'go-to' resource and a leader in the global climate water risk conversation. Today, CWR works with government-related bodies, corporates and financial institutions. Reports she has curated and written have been considered ground-breaking and instrumental in understanding not just China's but future global water challenges; they are cited by IGOs, the financial sector and mainstream media. Ms. Tan is published in environmental policy journals and sits on various committees including those of CDP, CDSB, global corporates and the judging panel of the UNPRI awards. She is a prolific speaker at water, investor and industry conferences as well as policy and academic forums. Previously, she spent over a decade in finance as a chartered accountant and investment banker. She spends her spare time exploring Himalayan glaciers.

**Stefano BARONCI**

**Director General  
ACI Asia-Pacific**



Mr. Stefano Baronci is the Director General of ACI Asia-Pacific. Appointed in December 2019 and based in Hong Kong SAR, he is responsible for driving and executing the strategic plan of the association and overseeing a team of 13 professionals at the Regional Office.

Mr. Baronci has over 20 years of analytic and representational experience at national and international levels in the aviation sector, representing both airport and airline industries. He is very familiar with the ACI community, having previously served as the Director of Economics at ACI World in Montreal and Senior Policy Manager at ACI Europe in Brussels. He also served as Secretary General of Assaeroporti, the Italian airport operators association, and Assistant Director and ATM Infrastructure Expert at the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Mr Baronci, a native of Italy, holds an Executive MBA from Warwick University in the United Kingdom and graduated with a Law degree from La Sapienza University in Rome, Italy. He is married with two children.